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WILLIAM WHIPPLE'S NOTES OF A JOURNEY FROM
PHILADELPHIA TO NEW HAMPSHIRE, IN THE
SUMMER OF 1777.

[The original MS. of these notes is in the possession of the Rev. Alfred L. Elwyn, of Philadelphia. William Whipple, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was born at Kittery, Maine, January 14, 1730. He was a member of the Provincial Congress of 1775, and the Committee of Safety; a member of Congress, 1776, September, 1777, and 1778-79. Assigned by the Assembly of New Hampshire to the command of a brigade of troops organized to oppose the march of Burgoyne, he joined the army under Gates at Saratoga, and commanded the New Hampshire troops in that campaign. In 1778 he took part in Sullivan's expedition to Rhode Island. He died November 28, 1785.

William Ellery, who accompanied him, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and also of the Articles of Confederation, was born at Newport, R. I., December 22, 1727. From May, 1776, to 1785, with the exception of 1780 and 1782, he was a delegate to Congress. As a member of the Marine Committee, and subsequently of the Board of Admiralty, he did eminent service for his country. During the occupation of Rhode Island by the British (1777-78) Mr. Ellery suffered considerable loss of property. He died February 15, 1820.—ED.]

W[illiam] E[llery] & W[illiam] W[hipple] set out on a journey from Philadelphia for the Eastern States on the 13th June 1777 at 6 O^h Clock in the morning.

Breakfasted with that Generous Whig Quaker Stephen Collins who lives about 3 Miles from Philadelphia.¹ Our next stay was W^m Mills's,² at the Cross Roads eleven Miles from Mr. Collins's, where we met a number of Prisoners who had been taken in the late Skirmishes—this is a Tolerable house.

From Mills' to M^cCauleys, at the sign of the moon & half

¹ He resided on Turner's Lane, a short distance west of the German-town Road.

² Now Willow Grove, Bucks County.

moon, where we lodg'd, is Eleven Miles.¹ Here we had good Beds; & if it had not have been for a few Buggs W. E. would not have lodg'd on the Floor half the night. The People were civil & obliging. Set out from M^cCauley's a little before five & rode 16 Miles to Cookens, where a Tavern had been formerly kept, but was now dropt by Reason of the Landlord's Death; however the[y] received us, & fed us & our horses.² It's a pity a good Tavern was not still kept here. The House is prettily situated a few Rods on the left of the Road, fronting a fine Meadow intersected by a Beautiful Rivulet; at a distance you see Fields of different kinds of Grain, and the Prospect is Bounded by high woody Hills. We were regaled here with a good Dish of Tea, good cream, good Bread & Butter and some nice broiled ham as a Relisher. We were both tired and hungry, W. W. drank Tea and crown'd his Breakfast with a bowl of Milk. W. E. confined himself to Tea & Bread & Butter at which he shone; the Reckoning very moderate. After you have rode from Cooken's about a mile, take the right hand Road, ride on half a mile & take the next right hand Road that offers—the Road from thence is fair to the Lahi [Lehigh] which is the western Branch of the Delaware. When you reach the Lahi take the left and persue its Banks till you Reach the Ferry³ which is about a mile; as you approach the Ferry, the Beautiful little town of Bethlehem opens to your View, which lies on the North side of the Lahi, where are the Principal publick Buildings, in this Fraternal Sowcial, Society of Moravians. The River presents a Magnificent appearance. The Moravians purchas'd here about 4000 acres of Land in 1741.⁴ In 1742 they made

¹ "William McCauley" is registered among the innkeepers of Plumstead township, Bucks County, as early as 1772. His inn was probably located at Gardenville, where the Durham road crosses that leading from the Easton road to Point Pleasant, on the Delaware.

² See Pa. Mag., Vol. X. p. 205.

³ The ferry at Bethlehem was located about where the present railroad bridge spans the Lehigh.

⁴ The first purchase of land made by that Church was a tract of five hundred acres, in the winter of 1741, but title was not passed until April,

their first settlement. There are at present in Bethle^m about 600 souls. There are 64 private families. The Rest live in public Buildings. In the Men's House,¹ which is about 80 feet long and 50 feet wide and three stories high, lodge 120 single Men & Boys. The single women's House is about 100 feet in Length and 42 in breadth, 150 belong to it & 124 sleep in it. The Widows' house is 80 by 45 and contains 30 widows.² Besides these the Tavern [The Sun] which is large & commodious, the Mills Merchant's Stores and Tanyard, belong to the Society. They too have a public Farmer. Have died since the first Settlement 450—the burying Ground is regularly laid out; The bodies of the Males are in separate districts from the Females when dead as well as while Living. They marry without courting. The Young Man who wants a wife communicates his designs to the Elders, they chuse a wife for him, if they like Each other it's a match.³ From Bethlehem to Eastown is 12 Miles, where we lodged at M^r Shannon's.⁴ While we were standing with M^{rs} Shannon at the door, She recollected that she had seen M^r W. in Montserat⁵—they came to an ecclarisiment soon. From their countinances, and Behaviours discovered, that they had been acquainted while they were single, & immediately left them to talk over past scenes—we had a good Dish of Tea Good Beds &c, and fare'd the Better perhaps for the acquaintance before hinted at. We left Eastown at 5 in the morning and Breakfasted at Cary's

1742. Successive purchases on both sides of the Lehigh had increased the number to near five thousand acres at the date of this journal.

¹ The middle building of the Young Ladies' Seminary. Twice during the war for Independence it was occupied by the Continental Hospital.

² Paintings of both of these buildings, which are still standing, are among the collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

³ Prior to and for years subsequent to the date of this journal, courtship, as now practised, was not allowed, and the part taken by the elders of the congregation was advisory.

⁴ Theophilus Shannon's inn stood on the northwest corner of Northampton and Fermor (now Second) Streets.

⁵ Mr. Whipple had been a sea captain, in the West India trade, prior to the Revolution.

twelve miles from Eastown.¹ Between Eastown & Cary's we met Col: Dyer² Col: Williams³ & Mr Law⁴ Bound to Phila^d At Eastown we passed the Delaware where it forks and forms the western Branch call'd the Lahi before mentioned. There are about 60 or 70 Dwelling Houses in this town, a court house & hansom Dutch Church. From Cary's we rode to Swayseys in Oxford Township 9 miles, where we Baited our horses.⁵ By the appearance of the Beds good Lodgings may be had here. In our way to the next stage we stop'd at a little Moravian settlement call'd Hope consisting of 5 or 6 private Houses some mechanic's shops a Merchant's store and one of the finest & most curious Mills in America. All the Moravian Buildings are strong, neat & compact, and very generally made of stone.⁶

We din'd at Jon^a Willis's about 8 miles from Swayseys at a place called Log Jail.⁷ Jersey like the other Middle & Southern States is not divided into townships. The names of places where there are little Knots of Houses are many of them uncouth, and some of them indecent.⁸ From Wil-

¹ At Concord, Warren County, N. J.

² Eliphalet Dyer. See Drake's "Dict. Amer. Biog.," p. 292.

³ William Williams. Ibid., p. 989.

⁴ A member of the New Haven, Conn., family of the name.

⁵ Barnabas Swayze, a large landholder at this date, resided about one and a half miles southwest of Hope.

⁶ In 1769 the Moravians purchased of Samuel Green a tract of about fifteen hundred acres in the present Hope township, Warren County, N. J., to which they gave the name of Greenland. A town plot was surveyed, and in 1775 given the name of Hope. As a Moravian town it was abandoned, and the entire tract sold in 1808. The mill and a number of buildings are still standing. In 1778, Gen. du Chastellux, of Lafayette's staff, passed through the town, and in his journal describes the saw-mill with its appliances for bringing the logs out of the pond to the mill by the same power that sawed them.

⁷ For many years Jonathan Pettit was landlord of the inn at Log Jail (now Johnsonburg), a famous place for Whig gatherings. It is believed the first war meetings in New Jersey were held in this house.

⁸ This is an error, for at this date Sussex County was divided into Walpack, Oxford, Greenwich, Hardwick, Mansfield, Newton, and other townships. The uncouth names of "knots of houses" may have been "Sin Corner," "Hen's Foot," "Hard Scrabble," "Fleatown," "Hog

lis's we rode to Sussex Court House¹ 10 miles; in the Goal under the Court House were 24 Tories who are imprison'd for various periods according to the degree of their Crimes and fined in various sums according to their Estates. Indeed from what I could learn the fines were so large as to amount to a confiscation of their Estate. Poor Devils! they who fall into the hands of the Enemy are like to have their Estates drawn from them by free *Donations*, as appears by Tryon's Letters to Col: Billop, and they who by their infamous Conduct expose themselves to the justice of their Country loose them by Fines, sequestrations & confiscations. We lodged here at Hoffmans who is a *strong Whig*—from Sussex Court House to Carey's at Hardys town² where we Breakfasted is 10 miles, from thence to Col Hathorns³ is 17 miles here we dine'd W. E. eat Salled in the Dutch taste,⁴ from thence to Brewsters is 16 miles where we lodged & were detained till 10 O^h Clock in the morn'g by the rain. Brewsters came from the East End of Long Island where farming is carried on in the N England stile.⁵ The Country in N. York on the East side of the Jersey line is much better cultivated than in the Jerseys. From Brewsters to Hudson's River is 11 miles. The ferry is 3 miles and from the ferry to fish Kills⁶ is 5 or 6 miles—we had been told that Week's was a good house it may be so some times but we could get no meat to eat. They had some indifferent wine upon which and some Bread & cheese W. W. din'd. W. E. drank Tea & eat Bread and But^r for his dinner. This might have been put up with if it had been accompanied with good

Hollow," "Dark Moon" (here an inn stood at this date), "Shades of Death," etc.

¹ Now Newton.

² Near Hamburg, Hardiston township, Sussex County.

³ See Poore's "Polit. Reg. and Congr. Directory," p. 437.

⁴ Dressed with warm instead of cold vinegar, and garnished with pieces of browned fat of ham or bacon.

⁵ The Brewsters became settlers in Dutchess County, N. Y., as early as 1760. In 1777, Samuel Brewster was a member of the Committee of Safety of New Windsor, Orange County.

⁶ The Hudson was probably crossed from New Windsor to Fishkill.

humour, but our land Lady was the most ill-natured unmanly Vixen that ever poor traveller was plagued with, she refused to Broil a slice of Pork or toast a bit of Bread, this house sho^d be avoided.

From Weeks's we rode to Adriances¹ 10 miles where we Lodged; we were treated with good Nature, Milk Toddy, and Bread & Butter. Here Doctor [Manasseh] Cutler who we miss'd at Fish Kills, came to see us & spent the night with us. From Adriance to Patterson's² is 10 miles, where we Breakfasted on the Best Coffee we had met with on the Road. W. W. troubled much with Head Ake.

From Pattersons to Dibbles in Danbury is 16 miles where we Dined very well & were civilly treated; 19 dwelling Houses were Burnt in this town by the British Soldiery in their late Incurtion, for which Infernality they pay'd dear by the loss of many of their lives.³

From Dibbles to Chandlers in Newtown is 10 Miles, here we Lodged comfortably. Two thirds of town are Tories. The Parson of the parrish (Beach) prays for the Tyrants of Britain every Lord's day and it seems with impunity.⁴ From Chandler's to De Forest's,⁵ New Stamford, is 8 Miles, we were well treated here. From thence to the ferry⁶ is 6 miles & from the ferry to Darby 3 we Baited at Curtis's. Here was a female who was travelling to Oxford, and who was a Snuff taker. W. E. offer'd her part of his snuff which she refused saying she had no small change; whether she perceiving the saddle bags on his horse and observing their [size?] concluded he was a pedler with his Bag-full of snuff &c and that what he offer'd was as a sample, or whether it was owing to her want of Breeding he cant say, she other-

¹ In the present East Fishkill township, Dutchess Co., N. Y.

² William Patterson, innkeeper, and subsequently a judge of the Court of the Common Pleas of Dutchess County, lived in what is now Patterson township, Putnam Co., N. Y.

³ Danbury, Fairfield Co., Conn., was burned by Governor Tryon's troops, April 27, 1777.

⁴ Rev. John Beach, of Trinity Parish.

⁵ Anthony de Forest.

⁶ Over Housatonic River.

wise appeared to be a decent woman, this and the favorable opinion he entertains of the fair sex leads him to think her Conduct was owing to the former. However after telling her that he believed she took him for a Pedler and assuring her that he was not of that order of Events and that he did not mean to take money for his Snuff he gave her a portion of it and she thank'd him with a Curtsey. From Darby to New Haven is nine miles. Here we din'd at Adam's and after dinner visited M^r Sherman¹ pass'd the uper ferry after 6 O^b Clock and arriv'd at Brantford about 8 put up at Baldwin's where we were kindly entertained and well Lodged. The good Landlady seems disposed to contribute all in her power to the Happiness of travellers. From Baldwin's to Stone's² in Guilford is 10 miles, here we breakfasted—from hence to Killingsworth,³ where we dined. The weather being Extream hot lay by till towards the Evening, then set out for Say Brook at the ferry met Cap^t Saltinstall⁴ who came with his Boat the Better to accommodate us over the river. W. W. went on Board the Trumbull;⁵ from thence walked to Parsons's in Lim⁶ whether he had before sent his horse, and where he found his Companion (W. E.) regaling himself with a dish of Coffee. At this place we met Gen^l Green's Lady attendid by the Gen^{ls} Brother on her way to Camp, it seems this Lady's Love is so great that neither Rocks nor any other difficulties is a Bar to her pursuit of the Gratification of it.

We left Parsons's about 4 O^b Clock and arrived at New London before 8, where we Breakfasted & were vissited by some Gentm of the town W. W. had some conversation with

¹ Hon. Roger Sherman.

² A descendant of John Stone, a fellow-passenger with the ancestors of Hon. William M. Evarts, S. B. Chittenden, and William H. Seward, who landed at Boston, June 26, 1637.

³ The highway from Guilford to Killingsworth was at the date of this journal, and is still, one of the finest in New England.

⁴ Gilbert Saltonstall, captain of marines, of sloop-of-war "Trumbull."

⁵ Sloop-of-war "Trumbull," of ten guns; subsequently captured in the West Indies.

⁶ Lyme, formerly East Saybrook.

Mr Shaw¹ on Business & cross'd the ferry between 11 & 12 and rode 12 miles to Russel where we expected to dine but were disappointed however we rested our horses it being very hot, and gave them some green hay, we also had a drink of milk and water from thence we rode 8 miles to Thompsons, who is a rich farmer but does not know how to live here we got a Supper of fryed Veal and Pork & went to bed early in hopes of a good nights rest but soon after we got to bed W. W. was most violently attacked by the Bugs & was obliged to get up, he hall'd the Bed on the flower, hoping by this means to avoid them but did not succeed, W. E. was fortunate enough not to be disturb'd—set out about 5 and rode 8 miles to Champlin in Charlestown where we stopt to Breakfast. W. E. rode 8 miles farther to I Potters a friend of his, where W. W. joined him about Eleven and went on to Little rest dined at Mr Champlins a friend of W. E from thence to Judge Potters one mile where we drank Coffee at 6 set out for Greenock arrivd at Judge Greens about 10 here we Lodged very comfortably & were treated with great Hospitality & not permitted to depart before Breakfast set out between 8 & 9 rode 2 or 3 miles out of our way by mistake owing as is supposd to W. E. wearing his Glasses which he had not done before on this Road arriv'd at Providence between 12 and 1—W. W. put up at a Tavern W. E. went to a friends house some distance from the town—here I separate from my Friend and Companion Mr Ellery, was vissited by several Gent^m of the town dined, Lodged & Breakfasted at this house and in the morn^s viz July 1st vissited Mr Chickly who has had a severe stroke of the Palsey but is now on the Recovery, I was treated last Year in Company with Mr. S.[amuel] Adams with great Hospitality by this Gent^m—I did not leave Providence till 10 O^h Clock—as I missed my Road on the Plain met with no entertainment till I arriv'd at Mans of Wrentham where I dine'd on cold Roast Veal & Salled from hence I rode 18 miles to Ames'es²

¹ Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., a leading and patriotic citizen of the town.

² The hostess of the inn was the widow of Nathaniel Ames, the famous compiler of Almanacs.

in Dedham where I Lodged here I met M^r Whainwright a Young Gent^m who serv'd his time with Dr. [Manasseh] Cutler & who is on his way to the Army—set out from Ames's about 5 & arriv'd at Bracketts¹ in Boston between 7 & 8, after Breakfast deliver'd Letters to sundry Persons, dine'd at M^r Bradfords in Company with M^r T. Cushing² & M^r [R. T.] Paine—this last Gentleman is much alter'd in his dress since he left Philadelphia which was in December last, he then had short straight hair, but now a Prodigious fore top, Ear Curls, & an immense quantity of hair tyed in a Club behind, on the whole his head is dressed in the true Macharoni stile. I made several short vissits in the afternoon & spent the evening with my old Friend M^r [Henderson] Inches and suped on Lobster, which is a great rarity.

Wednesday y^e 3d^a July set out from Boston. Dined at Lynn & Lodg'd at Ipswich.

Thursday y^e 4 set out from Ipswich & arriv'd home in the Evening.

¹ See "Old Landmarks and Historic Personages of Boston," p. 61.

² For a letter of Thomas Cushing, see Pa. Mag., Vol. X. p. 355.